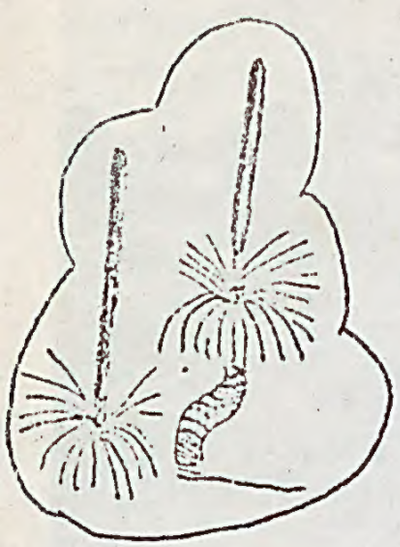


CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

MAY 1979 35

Pres: Mrs R. Mills
Sec : Mr G. Sitch
Treas: Mr L. Bransgrove
News-sheet: Mr E. Perkins.

General meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at the Castlemaine Education Centre, (SEC building), Mostyn St, Castlemaine, starting at 8.00 p.m. Visitors and prospective members are invited to attend the Club's sessions.

Orchids of the Castlemaine District — Number 21 of a series

BY RITA MILLS.

BLUNT GREENHOOD

(Pterostylis curta)

This greenhood can be confused with the Nodding Greenhood (P. nutans) at first sight. It is about the same height (15-20 cm), the hood is about the same size (2.5 cm) and the basal leaves and bracts are very similar. However, it is more translucent than P. nutans, the hood is erect and the sinus (the joined lateral sepals) is wide and loose.

The most distinctive feature of the orchid however is the brownish-maroon tongue, which is twisted near the tip and remains inside the hood.

It has been found in many parts of the district, but is less common than P. nutans here.

Its flowering time is September-October.

CASTLEMAINE BICYCLE TRACKS

Cars with big engines are fetching half their new car price after only one year on the road.

Top-line Ford or GMH V8 cars which cost $13,000 a year ago would today get about $7000 as trade-ins.

Industry sources yesterday said rising petrol prices had virtually priced big cars out of the market.

"It's been a progressive move over the past four years. Today, the high powered V8s are just not wanted," a used car dealer said.

As a result there was a shortage of four cylinder cars.

A spokesman for the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Peter Gibbs, said that 60 per cent of cars produced and sold in Australia had four cylinder motors.

This compared with 20 per cent 10 years ago.

"People are looking for ways to maintain their lifestyle and driving habits despite rising petrol prices," he said.

In the past 15 months petrol prices jumped from 18 cents a litre to an average of 25 cents.

It costs $15 to fill an average 60-litre tank today compared with $10.80 in February 1978.

Expensive V8 luxury cars were still bought by business executives as status symbols and, of course, tax deductions.

The four-cylinder range of cars is the fastest-growing sector of the car market.

A recent RACV report showed that petrol price increases have increased the cost of running a six-cylinder car to more than $65 a week.

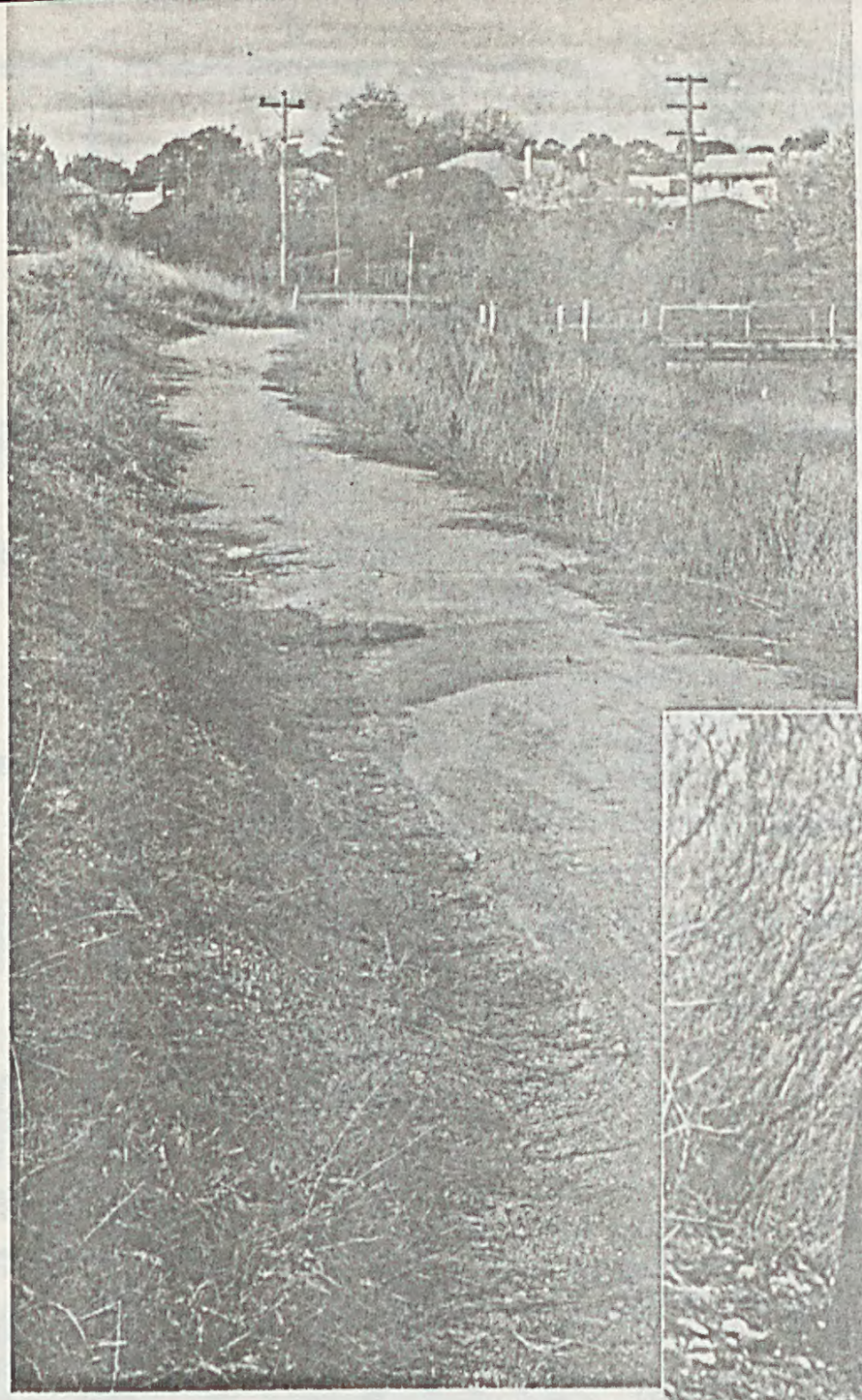
THE AGE,

Saturday, May 5, 1979

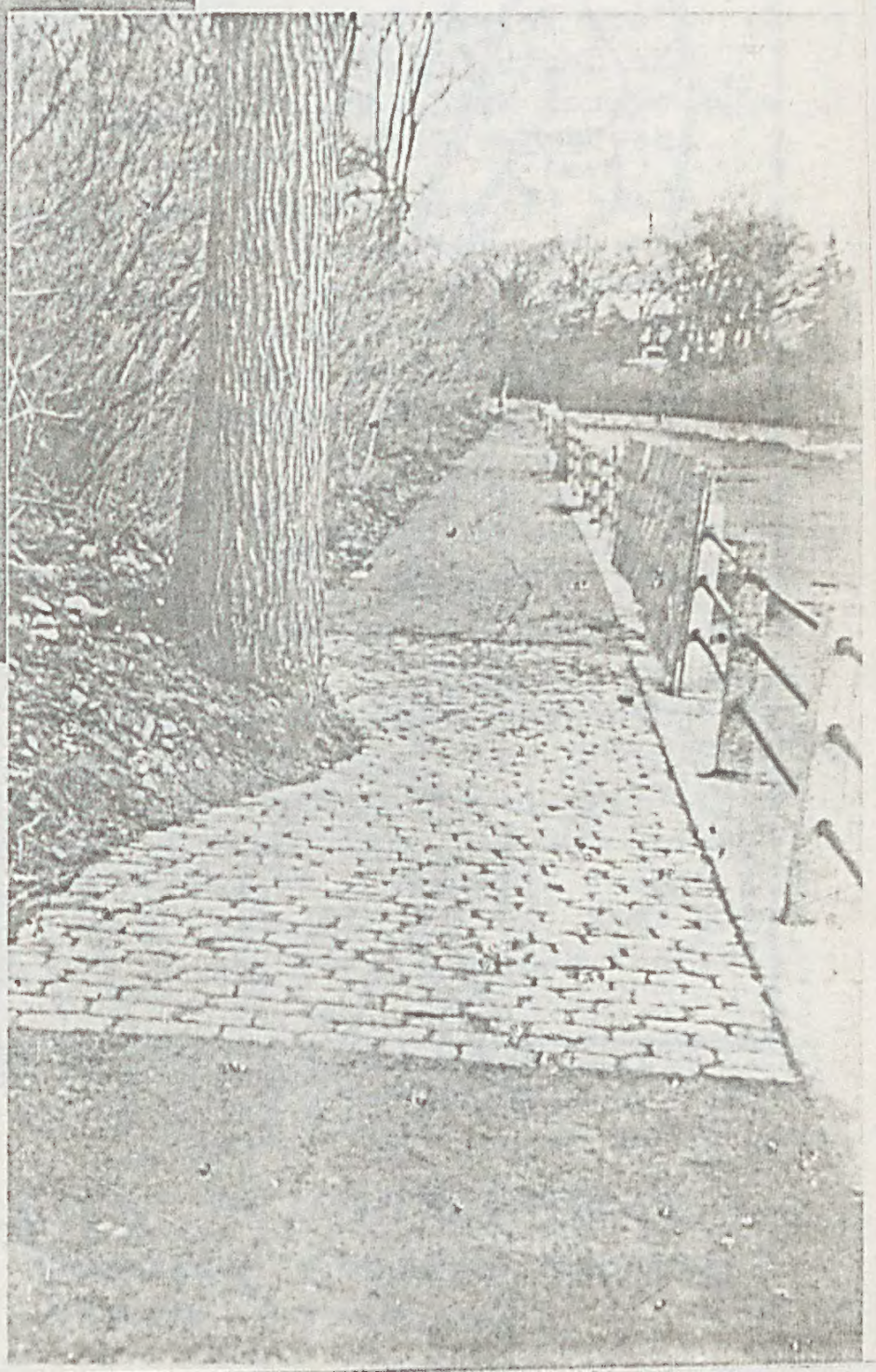
Petrol prices are likely to continue to rise, and even small cars may become too expensive for day-to-day running. This, and the move to physical fitness and healthy living could well lead to a massive increase in the use of bicycles. for local transportation as well as for pleasure.

Bicycles are already used extensively in Castlemaine, despite the hilly terrain and the numerous dangerous intersections.

The preparations for a Castlemaine City Plan should include consideration of a bicycle path network. The City is fortunate in that streams (with their low gradients) follow most of the major traffic routes, and the streamside reserves generally have room for bicycle paths. Experience elsewhere shows that it is much easier to fit bicycle paths into the landscape than is the case with roads, and future landscaping of the stream reserves could be designed to blend with the pathways.



Existing pathway,
near Winters Flat
School,
along Campbells Ck



Bicycle track,
Ottawa

Most of the streets are wide enough for bicycle tracks too, although many are too steep.

Some possible routes are:-

1. Along Campbells Creek, from Campbells Creek, with tracks leading to Winters Flat School and along Elizabeth Street. Part of the Creek bank near the Elizabeth St. bridge is privately owned which prevents, at present, a path following the creek in this area.

2. Along Barkers Creek to the Gardens, and hence to North St. and the High School. An overpass over the Highway would be desirable. Tracks could lead to the Alexander Home and the swimming pool.

3. Along Forest Creek from Chewton, with tracks to the South Primary School, the Technical School at Norwood Hill, the Shopping area and to the Stadium and Wesley Hill oval.

4. Along the western side of Kennedy Street to the Foundry, and hence to the North School, the hospital and the High School. A tunnel under the railway line near the squash courts and a bridge over Barkers Creek could link this track with the Barkers Creek and Campbells Creek tracks.

A bicycle path to Harcourt could follow some of the unused roads to the east of the railway line, or be built on railway land where this is more suitable.

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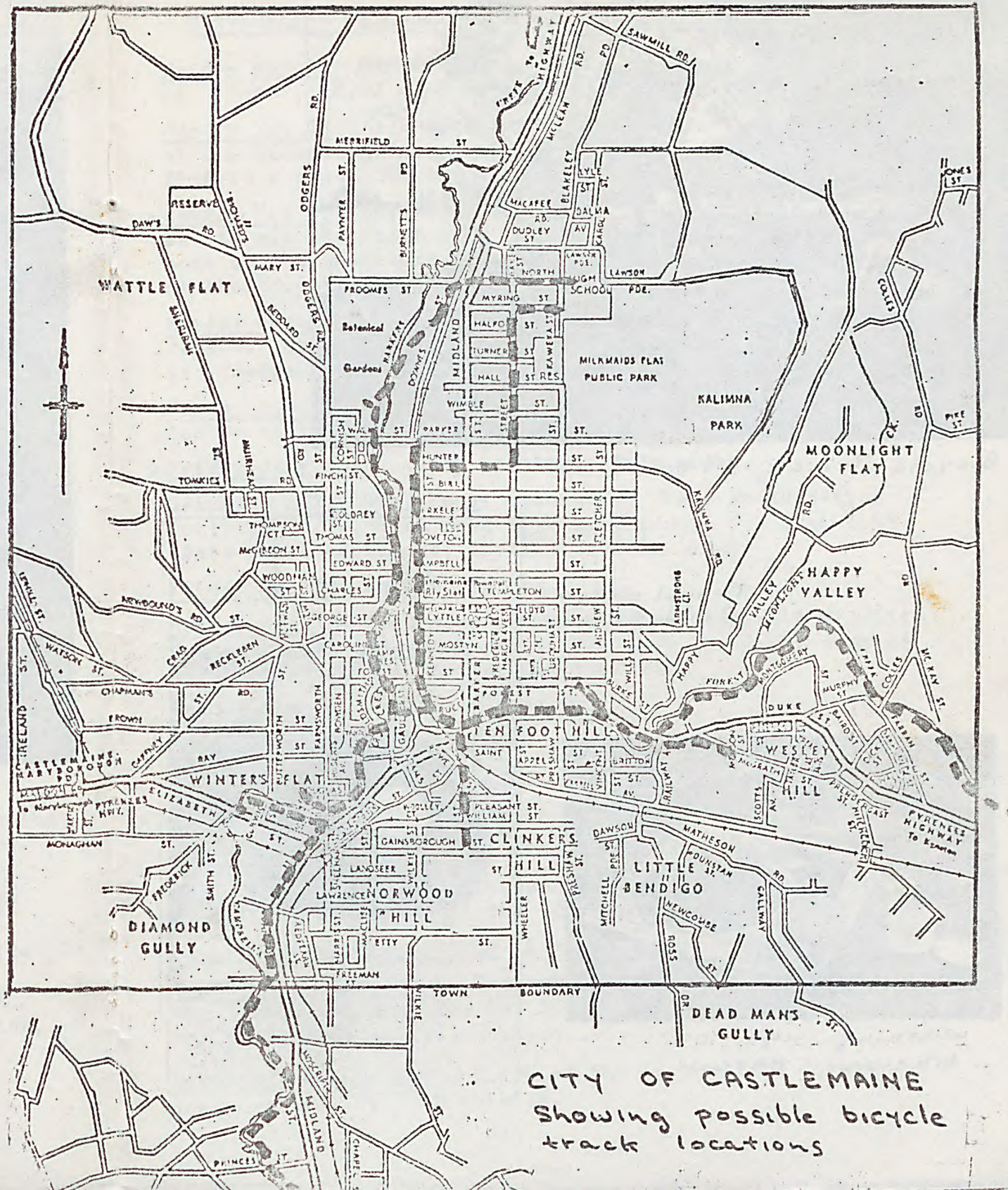
VICTORIA DOUBLES ITS NATIONAL PARKS News Item 26/4/79

New Parks are Croajingolong National Park (86 000 hA), Snowy River National Park (26 000 hA), Tingaringy National Park (18 000 hA), Baw Baw National Park (13 300 hA), Big Desert Wilderness Park (113 500 hA), Coopracambra State Park (14 500 hA), Pink Lakes State Park (50 700 hA), Cathedral Ranges State Park (3 570 hA), Steiglitz State Park (655 hA).

This brings the area of land in Victoria dedicated to Parks and reserves to a total of 654 250 hA, by next year the total should be 774 559 hA.

In time, the total should reach 1 100 000 hA.


WATTLE FLAT
WINTER'S FLAT
DIAMOND GULLY
NORWOOD HILL
CLINKERS HILL
LITTLE BENDIGO
DEAD MANS GULLY
TOWN BOUNDARY
MILKMAIDS FLAT PUBLIC PARK
KALIMNA PARK
MOONLIGHT FLAT
HAPPY VALLEY
TEN FOOT HILL
WESLEY HILL
NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
Botanical Gardens
MERRIFIELD ST
MARY ST
FROOMES ST
MYRING ST
HALFORD ST
TURNER ST
HALL ST
WIMBLE ST
PARKER ST
HUNTER ST
GOLDREY ST
THOMAS ST
EDWARD ST
CHARLES ST
MOSTYN ST
LYTTLE ST
FLOYD ST
ANDREW ST
FOREST ST
SAINT ST
PLEASANT ST
WILLIAMS ST
GAINSBOROUGH ST
LANGSEER ST
LAWRENCE ST
ETTY ST
FREEMAN ST
DAWSON ST
MATHESON ST
DUNSTAN ST
NEWCOMBE ST
ROSS ST
DUKE ST
MURPHY ST
MONTGOMERY ST
HAPPY VALLEY RD
MIDLAND HWY
PYRENEES HWY
To Bendigo
To Melbourne
To Maryborough
To Ballarat
To Castlemaine
To Harcourt
To Bridgewater
To Eaglehawk
To Epsom
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To Woodend
To Sydney
To Melbourne
To Bendigo

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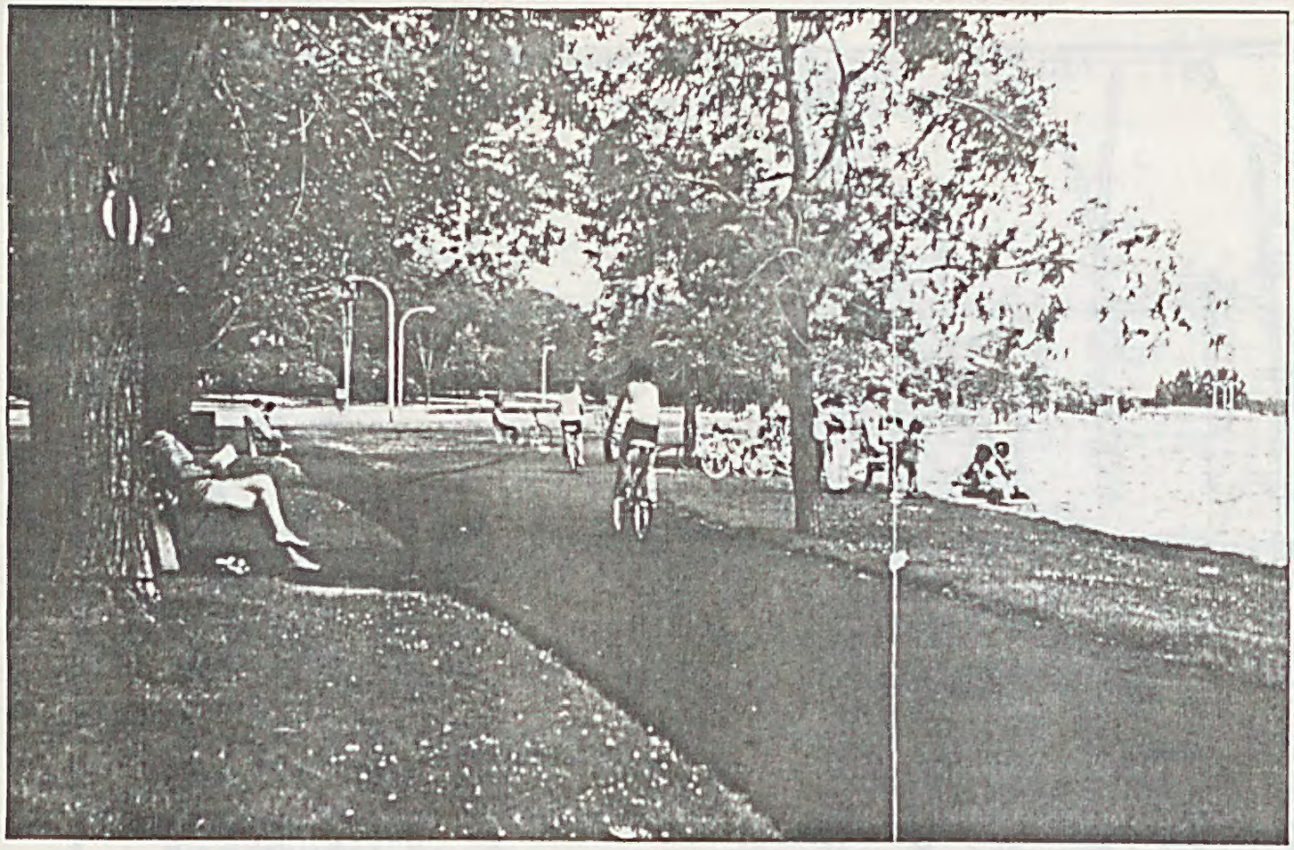
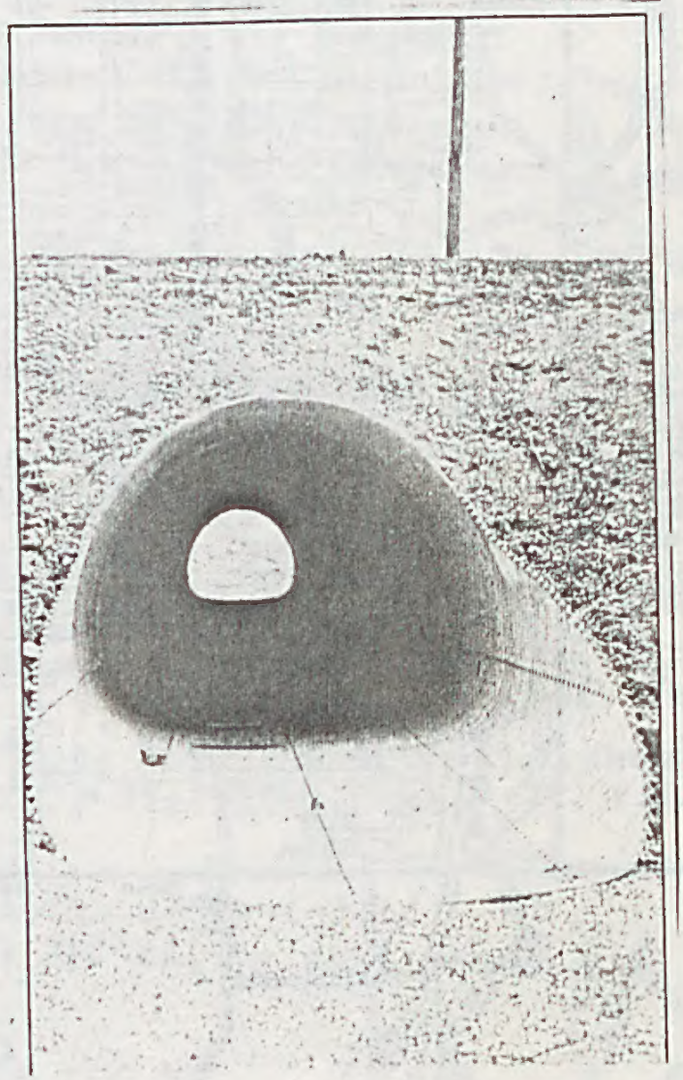
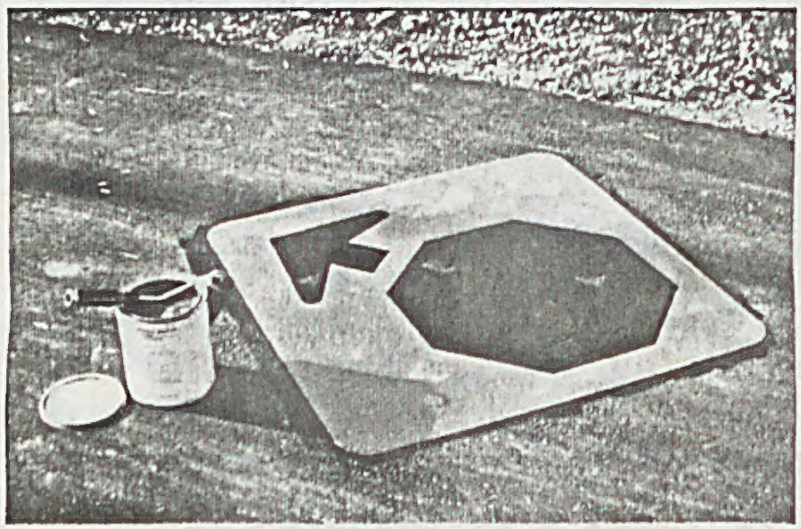


Bicycle Track, Ottawa

Tunnel under Road, Ottawa





warning sign on bikeway, Ottawa

CASTLEMAINE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB PROGRAMME

Friday May 11 May meeting. Speaker is Mr H. Parnaby. Subject is "Bats", 8.00 p.m. at the Education Centre.

Sunday May 13 "A bush-walk in the Vaughan District". Meet at the Education Centre at 10.30 a.m. Leader is Mr R. Bradfield. This is a sequel to the walk held last year.

Sunday May 27 Excursion to Little Bendigo. This will have as its aim the start of a bird, animal and plant list for some of the wasteland areas within the City Boundary. Meet at the Education Centre at 1.30.

Friday June 8th June meeting. 8.00 p.m. at the Education Centre. Speakers are Ross McDonald and John Weston. Subject is "Sedges, grasses and Lilies"

Sunday June9th Faraday School/camp site. Leave the Education Centre at 1.30 p.m.

Friday July 13th July meeting. Film night.

Saturday July 14th Fungi excursion. Meet at Education Centre at 1.30, then meet with Maryborough F.N.C at 1.45 (Date to be confirmed; further details later)

Friday Aug 10 August meeting

Sunday Aug 12 Excursion to Serendip (Fisheries & Wildlife Research Station). Barbeque in YouYangs at 12.00, tour at Serendip at 1.30. Further details later.

Friday Sept14 September meeting.

Monday Sept 24 Annual Show-day walk. MaldonR.S to Castlemaine via the Railway line.

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Treasurer: Credit Balance is $85.76: no accounts this month.

Subscriptions Family $5, Single $3, Student/junior $1

Next Committee Meeting Thursday 25 May. Members are invited. to attend. 8.00p.m. at the Education Centre.

Supper Roster-May Meeting L and G Grant

Castlemaine City Plan The sub-committee expects to table a draft submission at the May Meeting.

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Articles express the opinion of the author, and do not necessarily give Club opinion.

OBSERVATIONS CORNER

by G. Broadway

In addition to ANY items of interest which we would like you to report on for the interest of members, be on the lookout for any of the following:-

1. How many different kinds of Acacia (wattle) are in flower right now?
2. What other plants are in flower now?
3. Which of the Eucalypts are still in flower?
4. Any Yellow-winged Honeyeaters? Especially nesting ones.
5. How many magpies in a group? How many of them have black backs?
6. A Grey Thrush (Shrike-thrush) in your garden?
7. A Blue Wren in full uniform?
8. A nesting Yellow Thornbill? What is odd about its nest?
9. A spider placing a curled leaf in the middle of its web?
10. Clusters of very small, grey animals on puddles of water? Are they insects?
11. Scorpio. (The constellation Scorpion). At what time of the evening does it rise?
12. Start looking for the first Early Nancy. Who will find it?

for June Meeting

"How can we explore the moon, yet not destroy the wild flowers, travel faster than sound, yet still hear the birds song? Unless we find the answer, civilization will fail"

"People care much more, but we are not moving fast enough because our powers of destruction are growing too. We have superb engineering skills but there are too many of us and we are all too greedy"

(Dame Sylvia Crowe, Jan 1978)